Application No.: 10/535,168 2 Novartis Reference: PAT051719-US-PCT
Mofo Reference: 223002109500

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn) A composition comprising: (a) outer-membrane vesicles prepared from a first strain of *Neisseria menincitidis*: and (b) an isolated or recombinant NMB1799 protein.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein the protein of component (b) is:

(i) purified and added to component (a); (ii) expressed recombinantly, purified, and added to component (a); or (iii) expressed by said first strain following either engineering of the first strain such that it expresses said protein, either (1) from the first strain's chromosomal DNA or from extrachromosomal DNA, or (2) such that existing expression of said protein is up-regulated.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, comprising outer-membrane vesicles (OMVs) prepared from a genetically-modified first strain of *Neisseria meningitidis*, wherein said OMVs include one or more proteins which are (a) not present in OMVs prepared from said first strain prior to its being genetically modified, but which are (b) present in OMVs prepared from a second strain of *Neisseria meningitidis*.

Claims 4-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) A lipid bilayer which includes a protein selected from: (i) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 207; (ii) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence which shares at least 90% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 207; (iii) a protein comprising a fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 207, wherein the fragment comprises at least 12 consecutive amino acids from the sequence; or (iv) a hybrid protein of formula: NH₂-A-[-X-L-]_a-B-COOH, wherein X is the amino acid sequence as defined in any one of (i) to (iii), L is an optional linker amino acid sequence, A is an optional N-terminal amino acid sequence, and n is an integer greater than 1.

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Claim 7 (Withdrawn) The lipid bilayer of claim 6, in the form of a cell membrane, a liposome, a bacterial ghost, an outer membrane vesicle or a bleb.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn) The lipid bilayer of claim 6 or claim 7, which does not include at least one of the following native membrane components: a porin; lipooligosaccharide; lipopolysaccharide: PilC protein; Omp85 protein; an opacity protein; a pilin; or P64k.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) An immunogenic composition comprising an isolated or recombinant polypeptide comprising (a) at least 12 consecutive amino acids from SEQ ID NO: 207, or (b) an amino acid sequence that shares at least 90% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 207, and an adjuvant.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) The immunogenic composition of claim 9 wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence which shares at least 95% sequence identity with SEO ID NO: 207.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) The immunogenic composition of claim 9 wherein the polypeptide comprises at least 12 consecutive amino acids from SEO ID NO: 207.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) The immunogenic composition of claim 9 wherein the polypeptide comprises a hybrid protein of formula: NH₂-A-[-X-L-]_n-B-COOH, wherein X is the amino acid sequence comprising (i) at least 12 consecutive amino acids from SEQ ID NO: 207, or (b) an amino acid sequence that shares at least 90% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 207, L is an optional linker amino acid sequence, A is an optional N-terminal amino acid sequence, B is an optional C-terminal amino acid sequence, and n is an integer greater than 1.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide of any one of claims 9 to 12.